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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 30, 1962, 4:26 P.M.

MR. WHITE: Gentlemen, just a brief note on the atmospherics. The luncheon meeting got under way promptly at 1 o'clock. It broke up 3:45. It was a wide-ranging discussion, covered many subjects, including Cuba, Berlin, disarmament. The spirit of the meeting was good on both sides. For BACKGROUND, they did not go into negotiating points in the strict sense, since the negotiations on Cuba are being conducted in New York and those on disarmament at Geneva.

I wished I had a vast store of other information, but that just cleans me out. That is it.

Q Do you know whether their negotiatory discussions will advance the negotiations at Geneva or New York?

A John, I can't say whether they will or will not. I think that remains to be seen.

Q Do we share Mikoyan's expectation that there will now be some progress on Cuba?

A Well, that is the purpose of the negotiations. Let's hope so. I can't say that this advanced anything,

nor can I say it retarded it in any sense. I just don't know, Bob.

Q Do you think there was more progress today than there was at the White House?

A What?

Q Was there more progress today than there was at the White House yesterday?

A I can't say that, no.

Q They said yesterday there was no real progress. Would the same hold today?

A Well, as I say, on these topics in a strict negotiating sense it did not get into those.

Q Well, Linc--

A So I just don't want to characterize it as having advanced anything, or retarding anything. I think that will show up in New York and at Geneva.

Q Can you give us any guidance--

Q Mikoyan said that he had yesterday given some new instructions other than the White House conference. Wouldn't that be considered progress of some sort?

A It would depend on what those instructions were, I would think.

[Laughter]

Q Progress in one direction or the other.

Q Can you give us any guidance on what kind of new instructions the US is giving its delegation?

A I can't, for the simple reason I don't know, Elie.

Q In other words, we pretty well exhausted--

A This turnip is dry.

[Laughter]

Q All right, thank you, sir.

Q Thank you, Mr. White.

[Whereupon, at 4:30 p.m. the briefing was closed.]

VRVoce